



United States Department of the Interior

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JAN 5 - 1978

Honorable Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On July 16, 1977, we were informed by Dr. John P. White, Assistant Secretary of Defense, that the Department of the Navy had been designated as the executive agent for the coordination and execution of the responsibilities in rendering the required logistic support of the Department of Energy radiological survey in the Northern Marshalls. The highest of priorities was placed on this project since the appropriate U.S. Congressional Committees involved were informed that the survey definitely would take place in early 1978. The people of Bikini and their legal counsel also were so informed. A law suit against the Secretary of Defense, et al., as you know, is still pending in the U.S. District Court in Honolulu and the judge there held the case in abeyance after he was informed that the survey would be carried out by the United States.

I am, therefore, disturbed at the copy of a memorandum dated November 3, 1977, to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply, Maintenance and Services) from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Logistics) which appears to indicate that the project has not moved forward as anticipated to any appreciable extent. This memorandum states that only if funding can be resolved could the ship proposed for the logistic support conceivably be placed in a shipyard for overhaul in early CY 1978. If this is so, it would appear that the survey is to be delayed again for many months.

The funds for the logistic support were obtained from the House Interior Subcommittee on Appropriations for transfer to the Department of Defense. We had been assured that the obtaining of the \$2.6M by the Department of the Interior for use by the Department of Defense to meet the logistic costs would permit the long delayed survey to be carried out expeditiously.



Mr. L. Joe Deal, Department of Energy

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Collection L. Joe Deal
Box 13
Folder Marshall Islands Jan-Jun 1978

As you know also, the United States is conducting political status negotiations with the Trust Territory delegations, including the one from the Marshall Islands, and lack of action on this long promised aerial radiological survey could well become an embarrassing element which could hinder the President's Personal Representative for Status Negotiations in dealing with the status negotiations in the Marshall Islands. We have maintained that the problems deriving from past use of certain areas of the Northern Marshall Islands by the United States for atomic testing purposes are outside the scope of current political status negotiations. It has continually been stressed that the particular problem of the aerial survey of the Northern Marshalls is being handled by the Department of Energy, the Department of Defense and the Department of the Interior, working cooperatively. It could become a serious setback if the issue of atomic testing and, particularly, the slowness in carrying out the promised aerial radiological survey, develops as a political issue.

For all of the above reasons, I again call upon you for your assistance and cooperation in expediting arrangements to carry out this commitment of the United States Government.

Sincerely,

(Sgd) Ceca

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Enclosures

- Letter of June 15, 1977, to Secretary of Defense Harold Brown from Under Secretary of the Interior James A. Joseph
- Letter of July 16, 1977, to Under Secretary of the Interior James A. Joseph from Assistant Secretary of Defense John P. White
- Memorandum of November 3, 1977, for Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Supply, Maintenance and Services) from Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Logistics) Everett Pyatt

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8 NOV 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(SUPPLY, MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES)

Subj: Logistic Support of Aerial Radiological Survey of
Northern Marshalls

Ref: (a) DASD (S,M&S) Memorandum of 28 June 1977
(b) COMSC msg 261942Z July 1977

Reference (a) designated Navy the Executive Agent for coordination and execution of Department of Defense responsibilities in rendering the subject support. This status report is the result of initial coordination between designated points of contact in the Services and cognizant Agencies; it is intended to identify a significant problem concerning the budget established for Service participation in this project as well as to describe planning actions that are being taken so as to expeditiously move toward accomplishment of the survey mission.

The cost estimates provided by the Services to DOD in mid-1976 which were quoted to the Secretary of Interior, Director of Energy and Research Development Administration (ERDA-Department of Energy as of 1 Oct 77) and Director of Office of Management and Budget (OMB) cannot be considered as a valid basis for reimbursement for logistics support that will be provided by the Services. The most recent (July '77) cost estimate for the lease of USNS WHEELING (T-AGM-8), provided by COMSC, now approaches \$3 million. This significant cost increase is primarily due to an unexpected change in the operating status of WHEELING as explained by COMSC in reference (b). Moreover, prior estimates for other logistics support were offered as gross approximations, to be used for comparison with logistic support that might be obtained commercially. They were neither the product of detailed operational planning nor did they consider projected inflation. Planning now in progress will result in revised cost estimates that are realistic and reliable.

For the near term, the Navy Project Officer intends to proceed with planning, on the assumption that adequate funding will be provided for full reimbursement of the Services and that WHEELING will be deployed as a base support ship. Current Department of Energy (DOE) intentions are to conduct the photographic and radiological survey of eleven (11) atolls plus two (2) islands. The first milestone being considered, pivotal to

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the entire survey project, is the date when WHEELING can be placed in a shipyard for overhaul. Provided that there is an early resolution of the funding problems described herein, this event could conceivably occur in early CY 1978. A complete POA&M will be the subject of a subsequent status report.

Everett Pyatt
Everett Pyatt

Principal Deputy
Assistant Secretary of the Na
(Logistics)

Copy to:

Dept of Interior, Ofc of Territorial Affairs

Director, Joint Staff, OJCS

Dept of Energy (Div of Operational and Environmental Safety)

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United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

Hon. Harold Brown
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D.C. 20301

JUN 15 1977

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am pleased that a satisfactory solution has been reached for Department of Defense support for an Energy Research and Development Administration radiological survey of certain islands and atolls in the Northern Marshalls.

As reported in earlier correspondence, the entire Bikini Resettlement Project has been at a standstill since 1975 pending completion of such a survey of Bikini Atoll. Additionally, with the ending of the U.S. Trusteeship of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in sight, it was held imperative that before terminating the Trusteeship, a complete and comprehensive radiological survey should be conducted of all the Pacific islands which were subject to testing and close-in fallout to document the status today. Thus, in addition to covering Bikini Atoll, the survey will cover the other atolls in the Northern Marshalls (other than Enewetak Atoll which already has been done) which were subjected to nuclear weapons testing fallout. The delay in starting this important radiological survey resulted from the lack of funding on the part of various agencies concerned to cover the necessary logistic costs. DOD is the only agency with the capabilities of providing the required logistic support.

Through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Logistics, it was determined that the total logistic costs of the survey would amount to \$2.6 million. Late in 1976, the Office of Management and Budget directed that the Department of the Interior, on behalf of the Executive Branch, should request the funds from the U.S. Congress to cover the cost of logistic support which would be provided by your Department.

The Department of the Interior included \$2.6 million in the FY 1977 supplemental appropriation, P.L. 95-26 approved May 4, 1977, to cover the Department of Defense cost for the necessary support for the survey that included a ship and helicopters for an aerial radiological survey and a fixed wing aircraft for specialized aerial photograph. The technical portion of the survey is to be conducted by ERDA.

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DOI and ERDA staff are ready to proceed with the detail planning and scheduling for the survey. Target date for beginning the survey has been set for early autumn and it is urgent that we be informed of the official point of contact within DOE which will be the responsible agent for providing the required logistic support. Interior has the required funds at hand.

We view the successful completion of the survey as having a high priority within the Department of the Interior and will appreciate your assistance and cooperation in expediting arrangements to carry it out.

Sincerely,

(sgu) James A. Joseph

JAMES A. JOSEPH
UNDER SECRETARY

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MANPOWER,
RESERVE AFFAIRS
AND LOGISTICS

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

de Young

16 JUL 1977

Honorable James A. Joseph
Under Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Joseph:

Thank you for your letter of June 15 advising that the Department of the Interior has obtained congressional funding to cover Department of Defense costs for logistic support of the Energy Research and Development Administration radiological survey in the Northern Marshalls.

We appreciate the high priority of this project within the Department of the Interior and are pleased to assist in its completion. The Department of the Navy is being designated our executive agent for the coordination and execution of our responsibilities in rendering the required support. The responsible Navy office will advise all concerned of the point of contact for detailed planning, scheduling, and execution.

Sincerely,

JOHN P. WHITE

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